

**Amendment**

Applicant: Robin P. Yergenson

Serial No.: 10/044,684

Filed: November 9, 2001

Docket No.: 10012411-1

Title: OBJECT RETENTION IN A ROTATABLE CAROUSEL

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An object retention system for securing an object in a rotatable carousel having an axis of rotation, the system comprising:

(a) a unitary latching hub mounted within the rotatable carousel about the axis of rotation, the unitary latching hub having a perimeter;

(b) at least one object within the rotatable carousel, each object disposed radially outward of the perimeter of the unitary latching hub and having a latch reciprocal configured to mate with the unitary latching hub; and,

(c) at least one retainer adjacent each object, each retainer configured to maintain contact between one of the latch reciprocals and the unitary latching hub.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein:

(a) the unitary latching hub includes at least one prominence; and

(b) each latch reciprocal has a depression formed therein for receiving one of the prominences of the unitary latching hub.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein:

(a) each latch reciprocal includes a prominence; and

(b) the unitary latching hub has at least one depression formed therein for receiving the prominence of each latch reciprocal.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each retainer is springable to permit insertion and removal of each object.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the unitary latching hub is springable to permit insertion and removal of each object.

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6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the unitary latching hub is substantially coextensive with each object.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each object includes first and second ends and wherein the latch reciprocal of each object is positioned centrally between the first and second ends of each object.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for securing an object in a rotatable carousel having an axis of rotation, the method comprising:
- (a) mounting a unitary latching hub within the rotatable carousel about the axis of rotation;
  - (b) providing a retainer within the rotatable carousel;
  - (c) inserting an object, having a latch reciprocal, into the rotatable carousel;
  - (d) mating the latch reciprocal with the unitary latching hub outwardly radial of a perimeter of the unitary latching hub; and,
  - (e) ~~the retainer~~ maintaining contact between the latch reciprocal and the unitary latching hub with the retainer.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further including:
- (a) providing the unitary latching hub with a prominence; and
  - (b) forming a depression in the latch reciprocal for receiving the prominence of the unitary latching hub.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further including:
- (a) providing each latch reciprocal with a prominence; and
  - (b) forming a depression in the unitary latching hub for receiving the prominence of the latch reciprocal.

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11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein inserting the object includes:

- (a) the object displacing the retainer, permitting the latch reciprocal to partially bypass the unitary latching hub;
- (b) the retainer returning to lock the unitary latching hub against the latch reciprocal.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein inserting the object includes:

- (a) displacing the unitary latching hub, permitting the latch reciprocal to partially bypass the unitary latching hub; and
- (b) the unitary latching hub returning to lock the unitary latching hub against the latching-latch reciprocal.

13. (Currently Amended) An object retention system for retaining an object on a rotatable carousel, the system comprising:

- (a) a rotatable carousel having an axis of rotation;
- (b) a latching hub mounted within the rotatable carousel about the axis of rotation, the latching hub having ~~a perimeter~~ a plurality of peripheral surfaces;
- (c) an object within the rotatable carousel ~~disposed radially outward of the perimeter of the latching hub~~, the object contacting at least one of the peripheral surfaces of the latching hub and having a latch reciprocal, the latch reciprocal configured to mate with the latching hub; and,
- (d) at least one retainer mounted within the carousel, each retainer configured to maintain contact between the latch reciprocal and the latching hub.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein:

- (a) the latching hub includes a prominence; and
- (b) the latch reciprocal has a depression formed therein for receiving the prominence of the latching hub.

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15. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein:
- (a) the latch reciprocal includes a prominence; and
  - (b) the latching hub has a depression formed therein for receiving the prominence of the latch reciprocal.
16. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein each retainer is springable to permit insertion and removal of each object.
17. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the latching hub is springable to permit insertion and removal of each object.
18. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the latching hub is substantially coextensive with the object.
19. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the object includes first and second ends and wherein the latch reciprocal is positioned centrally between the first and second ends of the object.